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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am here speaking in support of Senate Resolution 9.

My name is Rosalyn LaPier. I live both in Missoula and on the Blackfeet reservation where I am a rural land owner.

I am tenured-track faculty member of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Montana. I was appointed by former Governor Brian Schweitzer to the State Historic Preservation Office Board where I am serving my second term as the cultural resource specialist. I also work at the Piegan Institute, a private non-profit on the Blackfeet reservation, whose mission is to research, promote and preserve Native languages. I am an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation and I am also Métis.

However, for this public hearing I speak as a private citizen and rural land owner. As a citizen of the State of Montana I speak in support of Senate Resolution 9, for these reasons.

1) The "Idle No More" movement in Canada is a citizens response to the dramatic changes in Canadian federal laws in relation to environmental regulation, water quality and aboriginal land rights, that were changed on Dec. 14, 2012.

2) The State of Montana borders three (3) Canadian provinces. When Canada changes its environmental laws and its protection of public waters, these ultimately impact the United States and Montana directly.

3) Recently a Memorandum of Understanding (Feb. 18, 2010) was signed between the State of Montana and the Province of British Columbia to protect the Flathead basin watershed from proposed mining in Canada and its potential for water contamination and environmental degradation downstream in Montana.

One question that the State of Montana should consider, now that Canada has significantly changed its own environmental regulations and protection of public waterways, is how many Memorandums of Understanding will the State of Montana have to sign with Canadian provinces to protect our own lands, our own environment, our own water and ultimately our own sovereignty as a State.

4) The "Idle No More" movement in Canada is an effort by regular citizens to bring to the forefront the dramatic changes in Canadian federal laws and how these will impact not only their own society, but also those bordering Canada (such as Montana) and the global community at large.

The State of Montana should let Canada know that we will protect our borders and our lands from their lack of environmental and water quality standards. We cannot sit "idly" by and allow Canada to pollute Montana's pristine heritage.

I encourage you to support Senate Resolution 9.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rosalyn LaPier